

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims Please AMEND claims 2, 7, 8, 10, 12, 17, 18, and 20 and claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 have been cancelled. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-15, 17-26, and 28-34 are pending and under consideration.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

On page 6, claims 5, 7-10, 15, 17-20, and 23-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 7 is amended into independent form to include the limitations of claims 1 and 6. Claim 17 is amended into independent form to include the limitations of claims 11 and 16. The remaining claims 2-5 and 8-10 depend on amended independent claim 7 and claims 12-15 and 18-24 depend on amended independent claim 17.

Claims 25-26 and 28-34 are allowed.

Thus, claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-15, 17-26, and 28-34 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submit that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the cited art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited. At a minimum, the Board should enter this Amendment at least for purposes of Appeal as it either clarifies and/or narrows the issues for consideration.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited and possibly concluded by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss any such remaining issues.

Serial No. 10/659,431

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

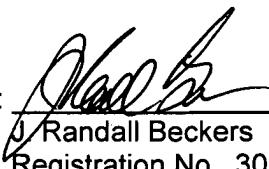
Respectfully submitted,

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